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8-10-2015

# CHHS News

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## Georgia Southern University Receives \$1.6 Million Grant for Advanced Nursing Education

August 10, 2015

Georgia Southern University's [School of Nursing](#) recently received a \$1.6 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for advanced nursing education. With the funds, Georgia Southern will establish an Advanced Practice Nurse-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (APN-PMHNP) track to uniquely serve the psychiatric and mental health needs of rural and underserved communities, making it the only university in the state to focus on telemedicine training.

"This project will create innovative partnerships between the graduate nursing program at Georgia Southern University and agency clinical partners," said Dr. Melissa Garno, associate professor and BSN program director. "We are very excited to be able to bring this educational opportunity to our state, with the goal of increasing and enriching the quality of psychiatric/mental health services in our communities."

The program, which will start in fall 2015, is for baccalaureate prepared nurses earning a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-DNP) program, or those seeking a post-master's certificate program. The seven-course online track will partner with clinical environments that provide team-based care, include on campus simulation learning experiences, and short summer intensive sessions with national content experts.

Students in this program will learn to manage the current and evolving needs of individuals, groups, families and vulnerable populations with mental health needs in both didactic and a variety of community-based and acute care clinical settings, incorporating telehealth care delivery. Telemedicine, the use of

telecommunication and information technologies in order to provide clinical health care at a distance, helps eliminate distance barriers and can improve access to medical services that would often not be consistently available in distant rural communities.

“We’re very pleased Georgia Southern University was selected for this prestigious grant, but the real winners are the people of Georgia,” said Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN, and interim president of Georgia Southern. “Georgia currently ranks 45th in the nation for access to mental health care, so graduates from this new track will be in great demand to help meet the severe need for psychiatric and mental health services, especially in rural areas.”

Georgia Southern’s School of Nursing is consistently ranked among the top nursing programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Its graduate programs place it at the top of the list of Georgia nursing schools, boasting a passing rate of 99 percent on certification exams.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

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## Georgia Southern University Ranked Top School for Fashion Design, Merchandising

August 10, 2015

Georgia Southern University’s Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design program has been named one of the top fashion schools in the United States by [Fashion-Schools.org](http://Fashion-Schools.org).

Georgia Southern’s program was ranked in the top 40 percent of schools considered nationally for both Fashion Design and Fashion Merchandising, and was ranked seventh of programs in the South. The review looked at hundreds of institutions across the country, including schools like Savannah College of Art and Design, Louisiana State University, Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising and San Francisco State University among others, and based the list on criteria including academics, admissions, faculty, value and more.

“In recent years, the program has seen tremendous growth and recognition nationally,” said Hope Wallace, MFA, professor and program coordinator of the Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design (FMAD) Program. “We have had an influx of students that are coming to Georgia Southern University to study fashion from other regions of the United States. We have also seen an increase in students that are transferring into our program from other institutions.”

Students in the Georgia Southern FMAD program have opportunities to intern and work in every area of the fashion industry, said Wallace. Some companies students have had opportunities with include Spanx, Phillips-Van Heusen/Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Nordstrom and Bloomingdales, along with magazines such as *Vogue* and *Teen Vogue*, *Redbook*, *Glamour*, *GQ* and others.

“Our program is working on becoming a bit more interactive and based in practice. We currently offer trips to the Atlanta apparel market as well as a New York Fashion study tour (course), which is taught annually,” Wallace added. “In

addition to the study abroad opportunities the University offers, we currently have in place a formal student exchange program in FMAD with two universities in Korea: Keimyung and Chung Ang Universities. We are also in the process of setting up an International Study Tour.”

Some notable alumni from the program include local designers Emily Barger on ('06) of [Mamie Ruth](#), Diane Bailey of [The Bailey Boys](#), and [Mychael Knight](#) ('02), a previous competitor on the show *Project Runway* and a member of the University’s inaugural 40 Under 40 Class. Knight returned to campus as a judge for the 2014 FMAD showcase highlighting student work, along with local designers Elizabeth Seeger and Brooke Atwood.

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